

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 19, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2, 5, 9, 15, 27, 31 and 33, are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 22-26 and 28 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. New claims 32-37 are added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-21, 27 and 29-37 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-14, 16-22, 24, and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,591,102 to Chavez et al. (Chavez), in view of US Patent No. 6,957,061 to Wright (Wright). The Office Action took the position that Chavez disclosed all of the features of these claims except for the feature that a specific record contains information that is used to determine that a user is to be verified with a home network. The Office Action asserted that Wright disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims. The rejections of claims 22, 24, 26 and 28 are moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-6 and 20 depend, is directed to a method for providing access to a service for a user in a communication system. A specific record, associated with the user, is used at a node in the communication system, containing

information which, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to the service.

Claim 7, from which claims 8-19 depend, is directed to a method for providing a user of user equipment with access to a service from a service provider node in a wireless communication system. A user specific record is used indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified prior with a home network to providing access to said service. Access is provided to the service responsive to the user specific record.

Claim 21 is directed to a server node of a communication system. A message is received from a user equipment. A user specific record, associated with the user, is used indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing a user with access to a service. In response to said user specific record, an access message is generated for providing the user with access to the service, thereby providing the user of the user equipment with access to a service from a service provider node.

Claim 27 is directed to a mobile user equipment. A user specific record associated with a user is used, indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing the user with access to a service. In response to said user specific record, an access message is generated for providing said user with access to said service, thereby providing the user with access to the service from a service provider node.

Claim 29 is directed to a method for providing access to a service for a user in a communication system. An authorization and authentication profile associated with the user is stored at a serving node in a serving network. The authorization and authentication profile is used at the serving node in the communication system. The authorization and authentication profile contains information indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to the service.

Claim 30 is directed to a server node of a communication system including an interface for receiving a message from the user equipment. The server node is configured to use a user specific record, associated with the user, indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing the user with access to the a service. In response to the user specific record, an access message is generated for providing the user with access to the service, thereby providing the user of user equipment with access to the service from a service provider node.

Claim 31 is directed to mobile user equipment that includes a processor and a control unit. The control unit is configured to use a user specific record associated with the user, indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing the user with access to the a service. In response to the user specific record, an access message is generated for

providing the user with access to the service, thereby providing the user with access to the service from a service provider node.

Applicants respectfully submit that the each of the pending claims recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references.

Chavez is directed to transmitting authentication information for wireless communication services that reduces the amount of data that must be transmitted in the system. When a mobile station authenticates with a base station with a location registration request, the base station retrieves data required to authenticate the mobile station from the network and stores it in local memory for future reference. Similarly, service authorization information for a certain service is only requested by the base station when the mobile station attempts to access that service. Once received, the service authorization information is stored in local memory for future reference. The stored data can then be used to authenticate/authorize future access requests by the mobile station without needing any further information to be retrieved from the network, thereby reducing the amount of data that must be transmitted in the system.

Wright is directed to authenticating mobile user equipment in a mobile telecommunications network. The home network generates authentication vectors for enabling the mobile user equipment to obtain an identifier having a value from the serving network, which is transmitted from the mobile user equipment to the serving network. An authentication element is received from a serving network (SN) to which the user equipment is not directly subscribed, extracting the authentication management

field (AMF) from the authentication element, generating in response at least to a predetermined value of the authentication management field (AMF), a key set identifier (KSI), and passing the key set identifier (KSI) to the serving network (SN).

Independent claims 1, 7, 21, 27 and 29-31, recite at least in part, the feature of a specific record in a network node, that contains information that is used to determine that a user is to be verified with a home network. As stated above, the Office Action admitted that Chavez failed to disclose this feature, and relied on Wright to cure this deficiency. However, Wright merely discloses passing an authentication element from the serving network to the user equipment, extracting in the user equipment an authentication management field and generating a predetermined key set identifier and passing the key set identifier to the serving network. At this time an authentication process takes place. Wright does not disclose or suggest, a user specific record that determines if verification needs to take place, as recited in claims 1, 7, 21, 27 and 29-31.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 2-6 and 8-20 depend from claims 1 and 7, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 3, 4, 6-14, 16-21 and 29-31. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1, 3, 4, 6-14, 16-21 and 29-31 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 5, 15, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Chavez and Wright, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,728,536 to Basilier et al. (Basilier). The rejection of claims 23 and 25 are moot in light of the cancellation of these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Specifically, Chavez and Wright are deficient at least for the same reasons discussed above for claim 7 and Basilier fails to cure these deficiencies.

Basilier is directed to transmitting specific information, such as access specific roaming information and/or application specific information, between a home network and a visiting access network. The home network and visiting network are capable of communicating access independent information in a protocol, such as a AAA protocol. The access and/or application specific information is formatted in the AAA protocol. The access and/or application specific information is then transmitted over a public IP network between the home network and the visiting network. A system is provided for transmitting access and/or application information between a visiting network and a home network over a public IP network. A control access server in the visiting access network formats the access information using a secure AAA protocol to form formatted access information. An application server formats application specific information. A AAA-F server associated with the visiting network transmits the formatted access and/or application information over the public IP network to the home network.

However, Basilier is silent with regards to using a specific record, associated with said user, at a node in the communication system, containing information which determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to said service, as recited in claim 7. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the above claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 2, 5 and 15 be withdrawn.


As stated above, new claims 32-37 are added. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-37 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-21, 27 and 29-37 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-21, 27 and 29-37 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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